

Citizens Review Board For Children



**THIRD QUARTER
FISCAL YEAR 2018 REPORT
(January 1st – March 31st 2018)**

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Our Mission Statement

To conduct case reviews of children in out-of-home care case reviews, make timely individual case and systemic child welfare recommendations; and advocate for legislative and systematic child welfare improvements to promote safety and permanency.

Our Vision Statement

We envision the protection of all children from abuse and neglect, only placing children in out-of-home care when necessary; and providing families with the help they need to stay intact; children will be safe in a permanent living arrangement.

Discrimination Statement

The Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) renounces any policy or practice of discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, or sexual orientation that is or would be applicable to its citizen reviewers or staff or to the children, families, and employees involved in the child welfare system (CRBC, 2013).

Confidentiality

CRBC local board members are bound by strict confidentiality requirements. Under Article 88A, § 6, all records concerning out-of-home care are confidential and unauthorized disclosure is a criminal offense subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment not exceeding 90 days, or both. Each local board member shall be presented with the statutory language on confidentiality, including the penalty for breach thereof, and sign a confidentiality statement prior to having access to any confidential information.

CRBC Acknowledgements

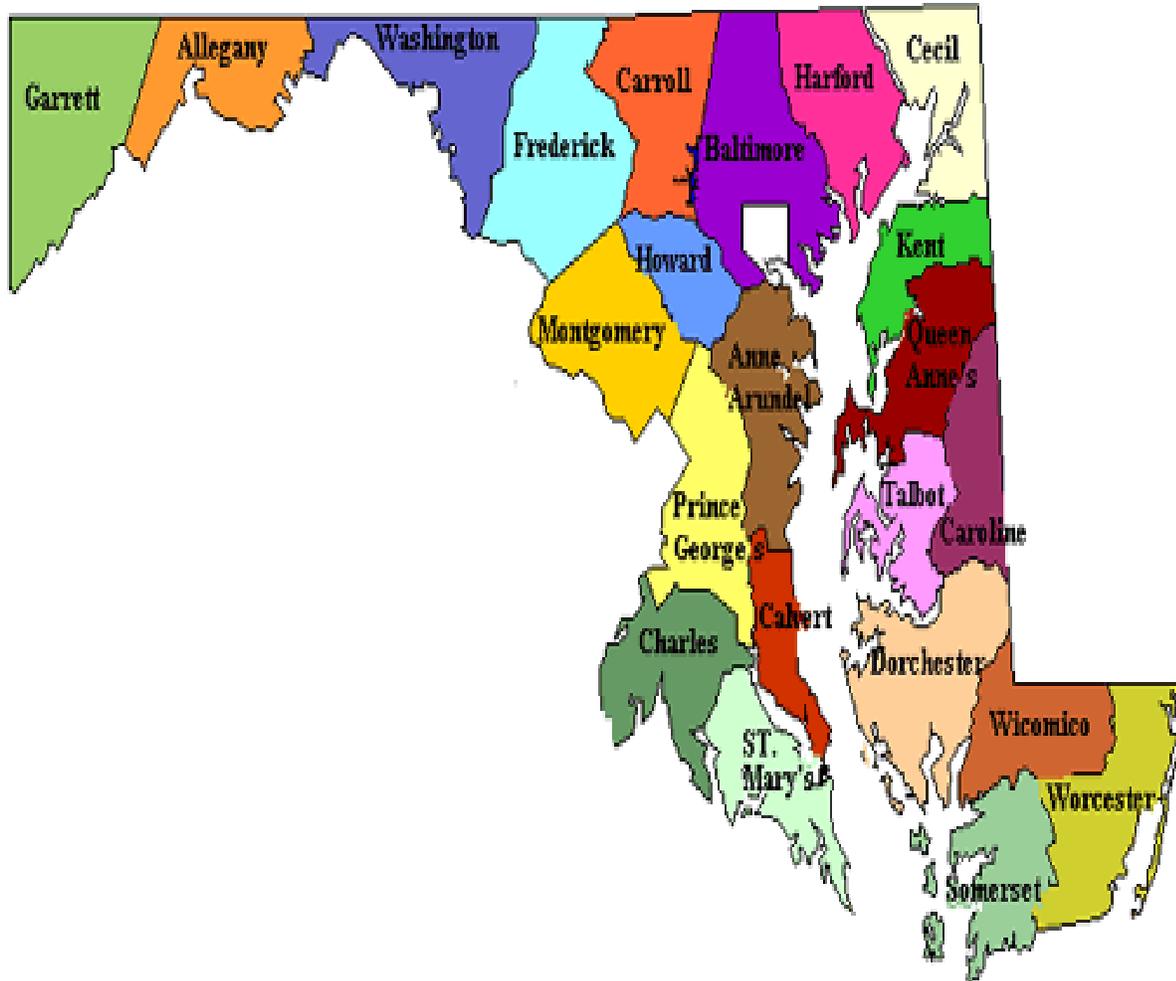
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

- ★ CRBC Governor Appointed Volunteers
- ★ The Department of Human Services (DHS)
- ★ The Social Services Administration (SSA)
- ★ The Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) and (DHHS) Montgomery County
- ★ The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children(CPMC)
- ★ The State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN)
- ★ The State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT)
- ★ The Local Juvenile Courts of Maryland
- ★ All community partners

*Thank
You*

Introduction

The following pages contain data from CRBC's out-of-home-placement case review findings and recommendations for the 3rd Quarter Fiscal Year 2018.



CRBC conducts regular out-of-home placement case reviews in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions including Baltimore City throughout the year. For this quarterly report, the following counties did not have regularly scheduled case reviews during the quarter: Carroll, Garrett, Saint Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, and Wicomico counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 17 counties and Baltimore City that had regularly scheduled reviews.

Targeted Review Criterion

The Social Services Administration (SSA) and the Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) together have created a review work plan for targeted reviews of children in out-of-home-placement. This work plan contains targeted review criteria based on out- of-home-placement permanency plans.

Reunification:

- ★ Already established plans of Reunification for youth 10 years of age and older. CRBC will conduct a review for a child 10 years of age and older who has an established primary permanency plan of Reunification, and has been in care 12 months or longer.

Adoption:

- ★ Existing plans of Adoption. CRBC will conduct a review of a child that has had a plan of Adoption for over 12 months. The purpose of the review is to assess the appropriateness of the plan and identify barriers to achieve the plan.
- ★ Newly changed plans of Adoption. CRBC will conduct a review of a child within 5 months after the establishment of Adoption as a primary permanency plan. The purpose is to ensure that there is adequate and appropriate movement by the local departments to promote and achieve the Adoption.

Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA):

- ★ Already established plans of APPLA for youth 16 years of age and younger. CRBC will conduct a full review of a child 16 years of age and younger who has an established primary permanency plan of APPLA. The primary purpose of the review is to assess appropriateness of the plan and review documentation of the Federal APPLA requirements.
- ★ Newly established plans of APPLA. CRBC will conduct a review of a child within 5 months after the establishment of APPLA as the primary permanency plan. Local Boards will review cases to ensure that local departments have made adequate and appropriate efforts to assess if a plan of APPLA was the most appropriate recourse for the child.

Older Youth Aging Out

- ★ Older youth aging-out or remaining in out-of-home care at age 17 and 20 years old. CRBC will conduct reviews of youth that are 17 and 20 years of age. The primary purpose of the review is to assess if services were provided to prepare the youth to transition to adulthood.

Re-Review Cases:

- ★ Assessment of progress made by LDSS. CRBC will conduct follow-up reviews during the fourth quarter of the current fiscal year of any cases wherein the Local Board identified barriers that may impede adequate progress. The purpose of the review is to assess the status of the child and any progress made by LDSS to determine if identified barriers have been removed.

Permanency Plan Hierarchy

In 2005, Maryland House Bill 771 adjusted the state permanency goals to align with the federal standards. The permanency plan hierarchy in Maryland is as follows: (Social Services Administration, 2012):

- Reunification with parent(s) or guardian
- Placement with a relative for adoption or custody/guardianship
- Adoption by a non-relative
- Custody/Guardianship with a non relative
- Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)

Family Centered Practice Model

According to the Social Services Administration, Family Centered Practice assures that the entire system of care engages the family in helping them to improve their ability to adequately plan for the care and safety of their children. The safety, well-being and permanence of children are paramount. The strengths of the entire family are the focus of the engagement (2010).

3rd Quarter Case Review Statistics

The following table shows the jurisdictions where reviews were conducted, the total number of children reviewed, permanency plans and the number of boards held.

Jurn #	County	Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA	TOTAL	# Boards Held
01	Allegany	0	0	5	0	0	5	1
02	Anne Arundel	5	0	0	0	11	16	2
03	Baltimore County	19	0	6	2	8	35	5
04	Calvert	3	0	1	1	3	8	1
05	Caroline	4	1	0	0	1	6	1
07	Cecil	1	0	4	1	2	8	1
08	Charles	4	0	0	1	3	8	1
09	Dorchester	3	0	2	0	5	10	1
10	Frederick	0	1	4	0	1	6	1
12	Harford	6	0	1	0	1	8	1
13	Howard	3	0	0	0	5	8	1
14	Kent	3	0	0	2	0	5	1
15	Montgomery	26	5	4	2	5	42	6
16	Prince Georges	5	0	3	2	11	21	5
17	Queen Anne	2	0	0	0	1	3	1
21	Washington	2	0	2	0	3	7	1
23	Worcester	4	0	1	0	3	8	1
49	Baltimore City	11	10	26	9	40	96	15
18	Statewide Totals	101	*17	59	20	103	300	46
	Percentages	34%	6%	20%	7%	34%	100%	

*(Note: Relative Placement is the combined total of Relative Placement for Adoption = 4; Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship = 13)

CRBC conducted a total of 300 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 18 Jurisdictions on 46 boards that held reviews during the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2018.

Although CRBC collects data on a number of data elements, this report will focus on the following:

- Permanency Plan - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (E))
- Placement Plan - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (I))
- Progress towards Permanent Placement - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F))
- Case Planning
- Health/Mental Health (family article 5-545)
- Education (family article 5-545)
- Ready by 21
- Independent Living Skills (14 and older)
- Employment (14 and older)
- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from

- the time of the review)
- Permanent Connections
 - Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
 - Pre-Adoption Services
 - Post-Adoption Services
 - Child's Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings
 - Miscellaneous Findings
 - Barriers/Issues to Permanency

Total Reviewed (300)

Gender Totals

Male	Female
146 (49%)	154 (51%)

Gender by Plan

Male(146)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
48 (33%)	12 (8%)	24 (16%)	13 (9%)	49 (34%)

Female(154)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
53 (34%)	5 (3%)	35 (23%)	7 (5%)	54 (35%)

Ethnicity Overall

African American	Caucasian	Asian	Other
190 (63%)	92 (31%)	5 (2%)	13 (4%)

Age Range by Permanency Plan

[RE] = Reunification

[RA]= Relative Adoption

[RG] = Relative C & G

[AD] = Non Relative Adoption

[CG] = Non Relative C & G

[AP] = Appla

AGE RANGE	RE	RA	RG	AD	CG	AP	Totals
1_age 0 thru 5	15	1	4	28	2		50
2_age 6 thru 10	20	2	3	13	3		41
3_age 11 thru 13	19	1	3	6	5		34
4_age 14 thru 16	27		2	9	5	6	49
5_age 17 thru 19	18		1	3	5	49	76
6_age 20	2					48	50
Totals	101	4	13	59	20	103	300

Jurisdictional Case Reviews

Allegany County



Allegany County had a total of 5 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Non Relative Adoption: 5 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan for all 5 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 5 cases. All of the cases were post TPR and involved children under the age of 14.

Category of APPLA plan (N/A)

Permanent Connections (N/A)

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months				5		
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years						
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more						

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 5 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: Not applicable. All the children were post-TPR under age 14.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
5	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home

Placement Stability

In all 5 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In all 5 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 5 cases had 1 placement change.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for all 5 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 5 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 5 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: All 5 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: All 5 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: All 5 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 3 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 1 child was taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: None of the children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: None of the children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Not applicable.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.

- Behavioral Issues: None of the children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.

The local board found that the health needs of all 5 children had been met.

Education

3 of the 5 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 2 children were under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – None)

Not applicable

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – None)

Not applicable

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Not applicable

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 5 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. All 5 children with plans of adoption were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (5 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 5 children with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure for all 5 children comprised of a married couple. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was non relative foster parents for all 5 children.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements was as follows:

- 5 case(s) from 4 to 6 months

A home study was completed and approved for all 5 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of all 5 children.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate in all 5 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were not needed for the 5 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that all 5 children had visits with parents that occurred at least once a week. The visits were all supervised by an LDSS agency representative and occurred at an LDSS visitation center for all 5 cases. There were no visits with relatives.

The local board found that all 5 children had siblings in care and all 5 children had visits with their siblings in care.

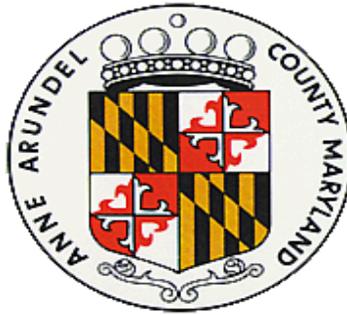
Barriers

There were no barriers/issues identified.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 5 children reviewed.

Anne Arundel County



Anne Arundel County had a total of 16 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 5 cases
- APPLA: 11 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 16 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 5 reunification cases.

Category of APPLA plan (11 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (9)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 11 cases)

9 out of the 11 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 9 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	2					3
7 to 11 months						2
1 to 2 years	3					3
2 to 3 years						1
3 years or more						2

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement

meetings prior to entry for 12 of the 16 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 14 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 10 of the 16 cases.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 10 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Regular Foster Care
4	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
5	Therapeutic Group Home
3	None
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Own Dwelling

Placement Stability

In 5 of the 16 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 11 of the 16 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 3 cases had 1 change, 6 cases had 2 changes, 1 case had 3 changes and 1 case had 4 or more placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 8 of the 11 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 16 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 of the 16 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 14 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 13 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 11 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 9 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 14 children/youths were taking prescription medication.

- Psychotropic Medication: 14 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 15 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 13 of the 15 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth was transitioning out of care and had and identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 2 youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 2 youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 13 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 11 of the 13 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 9 of the 16 children/youths had been met and 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

11 of the 16 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 youth had graduated high school, 2 youths were in college, and 2 refused to attend school.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Employment (age 14 and older – 13 cases)

6 of the 13 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience, and the local board found that the youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 13 cases)

The local board found that 12 of the 13 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 3 cases) (Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 1 of the 3 youths who was transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

9 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 16 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. All 5 children with a plan of adoption were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (None)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 4 of the 16 children/youths had visits with parents, and 4 had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; once a week for all 4 cases. The frequency of the visits with relatives were; once a month for (1 case), twice a month for (2) and unknown for (1 case). The visits with parents were supervised for (1 case) by an LDSS agency representative and unsupervised for (3 cases). The visits with parents occurred at the parent's home for (1 case) and at the child's/youth's placement for (3 cases). The visits with relatives were all unsupervised for (4 cases) and occurred at the relative's home for (2) and at a public area for (2 cases).

The local board found that 3 of the 16 children/youths had siblings in care and they all had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.

- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Other education barrier.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other physical health barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- Financial disincentives to permanence.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 16 children reviewed.

Baltimore County



Baltimore County had a total of 35 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 19 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 6 cases
- Non Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 8 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 33 of the 35 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 9 of the 35 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plans set by the court for the 9 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (8 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (8)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 8 cases)

3 of the 8 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 3 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	2			3		2
7 to 11 months	4			1		2
1 to 2 years	10			1	2	1
2 to 3 years	3					2
3 years or more				1		1

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 35 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 28 of the 35 cases and had a signed service agreement for 10 cases. There was 1 case where the mother refused to sign and 1 case where both parents refused to sign. 2 cases were post TPR children under age 14.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 10 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Formal Kinship Care
2	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
19	Treatment Foster Care (private)
2	Teen Mother Program
2	Therapeutic Group Home
3	Independent Living Residential Program
3	Residential Treatment Center
1	Non Relative
1	None
1	Diagnostic Center

Placement Stability

In 28 of the 35 cases reviewed the children/youth were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 14 of the 35 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 12 cases had 1 placement change and 2 cases had 2 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 13 of the 14 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 35 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 6 of the 35 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 30 children/youths had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 27 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 26 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 22 of the 35 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 17 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 16 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 26 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 24 of the 26 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and there was not an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 4 youths had substance abuse issues.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 4 youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 21 of the 35 children had been met. 1 child/youth had refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

27 of 35 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 3 youths had graduated from high school, 1 youth refused to attend school and 4 children were under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 22 cases)

2 of the 22 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths were medically fragile and unable to obtain employment.

The local board agreed that the 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 22 cases)

The local board agreed that 19 of the 22 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 3 cases)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 1 of the 3 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 35 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 5 children were under the age of consent and 1 youth consented with conditions.

Adoptive Placement (6 Cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

2 of the 6 children/youths with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple in both cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was non relative foster parents in both cases.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 1 case(s) from 12 to 15 months

A home study was completed and approved in both cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of the children in both cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate in both cases.

Adoptive Recruitment

The local board found that documented efforts had been made to find an adoptive resource for 2 of the 4 children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive placement. The adoptive recruitment resource was Wendy's Wonderful Kids for both children.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in 4 cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 4 cases, mental health for 1 case and education for 1 case.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 4 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 20 of the 35 children/youths had visits with parents, and 15 had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; once a week for (3 cases), more than once a week for (2), once a month for (6) and twice a month for (9 cases). The frequency of the visits with relatives were; once a week for (1 case), once a month for (7), twice a month for (5) and unknown for (2 cases). The visits with parents were supervised for (4 cases) by an LDSS agency representative, by a foster parent for (1) and unsupervised for (15 cases). The visits with parents occurred at the parent's home for (8 cases), at an LDSS visitation center for (1), at a public area for (7) and at another location for (4 cases). The visits with relatives were supervised for (1 case) by an LDSS agency representative, by a foster parent for (1) and unsupervised for (13 cases). The visits with relatives occurred at the relative's home for (8 cases), at an LDSS visitation center for (1), at a public area for (3) and at another location for (3 cases).

The local board found that 12 of the 35 children/youths had siblings in care and all 12 children/youths had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- Pre-Adoptive resources not identified.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Other educational barrier.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Vision not current.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 35 children reviewed.

Calvert County



Calvert County had a total of 8 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 8 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 8 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the courts in the 1 case.

Category of APPLA plan (APPLA- 3 cases)

- Emancipation /Independence (2)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

2 out of the 3 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for both cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					1	2
7 to 11 months	1					1
1 to 2 years	1					
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more	1			1		

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 8 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 8 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 6 of the 8 cases.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 6 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Restrictive Relative Foster Care
3	Treatment Foster Care (private)
3	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Other

Placement Stability

In 4 of the 8 cases reviewed, the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 4 of the 8 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 3 cases had 1 placement change and 1 case had 2 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for all 4 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 8 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 7 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 7 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 7 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 6 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 6 children/youth.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and there was not an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 7 of the 8 children/youths had been met.

Education

7 out of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 1 youth was in college.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 7 cases)

2 of the 7 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 1 youth was medically fragile and unable to gain employment.

The local board agreed that both youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 7 cases)

The local board agreed that 6 of the 7 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living and 1 youth was medically fragile.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had not been specified for the youth who was transitioning out of care.

The local board did not agree that the youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 8 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth with a plan of adoption consented to adoption.

Adoptive Placement (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable, the child/youth had not been placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Adoptive Recruitment

The local board found that documented efforts had not been made to find an adoptive resource for the 1 child/youth not placed in a pre-adoptive placement.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable, the child/youth had not been placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 5 of the 8 children/youths had visits with parents, and 2 had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; once a week for (2 cases), more than once a week for (1), once a month for (1) and twice a month for (1 case). The frequency of the visits with relatives were; more than once a week for (1 case) and twice a month for (1 case). The visits with parents were supervised for (1 case) by an LDSS agency representative and unsupervised for (4 cases). The visits with parents occurred at the parent's home for (2 cases), at a public area for (1) and at the child's/youth's placement for (2 cases). The visits with relatives were unsupervised in both cases. The visits with relatives occurred at the relative's home in both cases.

The local board found that 3 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care and all 3 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- Lack of Group Home placements.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Other physical health barrier.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 8 children reviewed.

Caroline County



Caroline County had a total of 6 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 4 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 6 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 6 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court in the 1 case.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

The 1 APPLA case had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the case.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months	1		1			
1 to 2 years	1					
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more	2					1

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 6 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 6 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 1 case.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 1 signed case.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care(Private)
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
2	None

Placement Stability

In 3 of the 6 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 3 of the 6 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review, and 2 cases had 1 placement change and 1 case had 4 or more placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for all 3 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 6 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 6 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 3 of the 6 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 6 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None.
- Substance Abuse: None of the youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs for 3 of the 6 children were met.

Education

5 of the 6 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 1 youth had graduated from high school.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

1 of the 4 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

1 youth was not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living and 3 youths had mental health issues.

- Housing(Transitioning Youth aged 20 – None)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Not applicable.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 6 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. There were no children/youths with a plan of adoption.

Adoptive Placement (None)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable, no adoption cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable, no adoption cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 4 of the 6 children/youths had visits with parents, and none had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; once a week for (3 cases) and more than once a week for (1 case). The visits with parents were supervised for (2 cases) by an LDSS agency representative and unsupervised for (2 cases). The visits with parents occurred at the parent's home for (1 case), at an LDSS visitation center for (2), and at the child's/youth's placement for (1 case).

The local board found that 2 of the 6 children/youths had siblings in care and both had visits with their siblings.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- Lack of concurrent planning.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- No current IEP.
- Annual physicals not current.

- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- No current Safe C/G.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 6 children/youths reviewed.

Cecil County



Cecil County had a total of 8 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 7 of the 8 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified concurrent permanency plans for 4 of the 8 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plans set by the court for 1 of the 4 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)
- Transition to an Adult Supportive Living Arrangement (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

Both APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for both cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					1	
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years				2		1
2 to 3 years				1		
3 years or more	1			1		1

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 8 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 7 of the 8 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 3 cases.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in the 3 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Formal Kinship Care
3	Pre Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Treatment Foster Care (private)
2	Residential Treatment Center
1	Relative

Placement Stability

In 4 of the 8 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 5 of the 8 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 3 cases had 1 placement change, 1 had 2 and 1 had 3 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 2 of the 5 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 8 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 2 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 3 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 of the children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of the 8 children/youths had been met. 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

6 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 1 child was under age 5 and 1 youth refused to attend school.

The local board agreed that all the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

1 of the 4 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 2 youths had mental health concerns and were unable to obtain employment.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

The local board agreed that all 4 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing(Transitioning Youth aged 20 – 1 case)

(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for the youth who was transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 case had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 8 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth with a plan of adoption consented to adoption, 2 were under the age of consent and 1 child/youth's consent was unknown.

Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

3 of the 4 children/youths with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple in all 3 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was non relative foster parents in all 3 cases.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows:

- 2 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months

A home study was completed and approved in all 3 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of the children/youths in all 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate in all 3 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment

The local board found that documented efforts had not been made to find an adoptive resource for the 1 child/youth not placed in a pre-adoptive placement.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post adoptive services were needed for all 3 cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 3 cases, mental health and educational for 2 cases.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for all 3 children/youths.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 2 of the 8 children/youths had visits with parents, and 3 had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; daily for (1 case) and once a week for (1). The frequency of the visits with relatives were; daily for (1 case), once a week for (1) and more than once a week for (1 case). The visits with parents were supervised for (1 case) by an LDSS agency representative and unsupervised for (1 case). The visits with parents occurred at a public area for (1 case) and at the child's/youth's placement for (1 case). The visits with relatives were unsupervised for (3 cases) and the visits occurred at the relative's home in all (3 cases).

The local board found that 5 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care and all 5 children/youths had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dental not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 8 children/youths reviewed.

Charles County



Charles County had a total of 8 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 4 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 8 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 8 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

1 of the 3 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the 1 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						1
7 to 11 months	3				1	1
1 to 2 years	1					
2 to 3 years						1
3 years or more						

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement

meetings prior to entry for all 8 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 8 cases reviewed and there were no signed service agreements for any of the cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
4	Treatment Foster Care (private)
2	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling

Placement Stability

In 5 of the 8 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 4 of the 8 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. In all 4 cases there was 1 placement change.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for all 4 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 8 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 8 children/youths had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 7 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.

- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 6 of the 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 2 of the 8 children/youths were being met.

Education

7 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 1 youth had already graduated high school.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet their educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

2 of the 5 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that both youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

The local board agreed that all 5 youths were receiving appropriate independent living skills.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for the youth who was transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 8 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. None of the 8 children/youths had a plan of adoption.

Adoptive Placement (None)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable

Adoptive Recruitment

Not applicable

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 6 of the 8 children/youths had visits with parents, and 1 had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; once a week for (1 case), once a month for (1) and twice a month for (4 cases). The frequency of the visits with relatives was; once a month for (1 case). The visits with parents were supervised for (2 cases) by an LDSS agency representative, and unsupervised for (4 cases). The visits with parents occurred at the parent's home for (2 cases), at an LDSS visitation center for (2), at a public area for (1) and at another location for (1 case). The visits with relatives were unsupervised for (1 case) and occurred at another location for the (1 case).

The local board found that 3 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care and they all had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No service agreement with youth.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- Dentals not current.
- Other service resource barrier.
- Other physical health barrier.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 8 children reviewed.

Dorchester County



Dorchester County had a total of 10 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 5 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 10 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 3 of the 10 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for the 3 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (5)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)

All 5 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for all 5 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months	1			2		3
1 to 2 years						
2 to 3 years	1					
3 years or more	1					2

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 10 cases reviewed

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 6 of the 10 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 5 cases.

The local department found that the service agreements were appropriate in all 5 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Treatment Foster Care (private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Own Dwelling
2	None
1	Other

Placement Stability

In 3 of the 10 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 7 of the 10 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 7 cases had 1 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 6 of the 7 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 10 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 10 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 7 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 7 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 of the children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 10 children/youths had mental health issues
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 10 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and there was not an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system for both youths.
- Substance Abuse: 3 youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for all 3 youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 7 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 4 of the 7 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 5 of the 10 children/youths had been met. 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

6 of the 10 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 youth was in college, 1 had graduated high school and 2 refused to attend school.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 9 cases)

1 of the 9 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 was not able to work due to mental health reasons, 1 was in a Juvenile Detention Facility and 1 was in a Correctional Facility.

The local board agreed that the youth who was employed was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 9 cases)

The local board agreed that 7 of the 9 youths were receiving appropriate services to

prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for both youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that both youths were being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 10 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 10 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth was medically fragile and was unable to consent and 1 child/youth's consent was unknown.

Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 of the 2 children/youths with a plan of adoption was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a single female for the 1 case and the relationship to the child/youth was a non relative foster parent.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows:

- 1 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was not completed and approved in the 1 case.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the child/youth.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate in the 1 case.

Adoptive Recruitment

Documented efforts were not made to find an adoptive resource for the 1 child/youth that was not in a pre-adoptive placement.

The local board did not find that the adoptive recruitment efforts were appropriate for the 1 case.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for 1 child/youth. The services that were needed were medical, mental health and educational for the 1 child/youth.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 1 child/youth.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 7 of the 10 children/youths had visits with parents, and 8 had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; once a week for (2 cases), once a month for (4) and unknown for (1 case). The frequency of the visits with relatives were; once a week for (2 cases), once a month for (4) and unknown for (2 cases). The visits with parents were supervised for (2 cases) by an LDSS agency representative and unsupervised for (5 cases). The visits with parents occurred at the parent's home for (1 case), at an LDSS visitation center for (2) and at a public area for (2 cases). The visits with relatives were unsupervised for all (8 cases). The visits with relatives occurred at the relative's home for (4 cases), at a public area for (2) and at the child's/youth's placement for (2 cases).

The local board found that 3 of the 10 children/youths had siblings in care and they all had visits with their siblings.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No service agreement with parents
- No service agreement with youth
- Non compliant with service agreement
- Youth non compliant with medication
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy
- Child behavior problems in the home
- Issues related to substance abuse
- No current IEP
- Annual physicals not current
- Vision not current
- Dental exams not current
- Other placement related barrier

- Other independence barrier

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 9 of the 10 children/youth reviewed.

Frederick County



Frederick County had a total of 6 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 6 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 6 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the court in the 1 case.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

The 1 APPLA case had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the 1 case.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months				2		
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years			1			
2 to 3 years				1		
3 years or more				1		1

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 1 of the 6 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 3 of the 6 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 2 cases. 2 cases were post TPR children under age 14.

The local board found that the service agreements were appropriate for both signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Pre-finalized Adoptive Home
2	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Program

In 3 of the 6 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In all 6 cases reviewed, there were no placement changes within the 12 months prior to the review.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 6 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 6 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 of the 6 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues

- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 2 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 2 of the 6 children/youths had been met.

Education

4 of the 6 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 youth had already graduated high school and 1 child/youth refused to attend school.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

None of the youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

The local board found that 2 of the 3 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for the youth who was transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in all 6 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 2 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

3 of the 4 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a single female for 1 case and a married couple for the other 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was non relative foster parents for all 3 cases.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 2 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved in all 3 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet identified needs of the children/youths in all 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate in all 3 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment

Documented efforts had been made to find an adoptive resource for the 1 child/youth that was not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive resource was Wednesday's Child.

The local board found that the adoptive recruitment efforts were appropriate for the 1 child/youth.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for all 4 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 4 cases, mental health services, educational, respite and DDA for 1 case.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for all 4 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 3 of the 6 children/youths had visits with parents, and 1 had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; once a week for (1 case) and twice a month for (2 cases). The frequency of the visits with relatives were; once a month for (1 case). The visits with parents were supervised for (2 cases) by an LDSS agency representative and unsupervised for (1 case). The visits with parents occurred at the parent's home for (1 case), at an LDSS visitation center for (1) and at the child's/youth's placement for (1 case). The visits with relatives were unsupervised for (1 case) and the visits occurred at the relative's home in the (1 case).

The local board found that none of the 6 children/youths had siblings in care.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Lack of local residential treatment facilities
- Pre adoptive resources not identified
- No service agreement with parents
- Appeal by birth parents
- Annual physicals not current
- Dental exams not current
- Vision exams not current
- Other placement barriers

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 6 children reviewed.

Harford County



Harford County had a total of 8 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 6 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 7 of the 8 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 8 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

The 1 APPLA case had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the case.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months				1		
1 to 2 years	6					
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more						1

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 8 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service

agreement process in all 8 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 5 cases.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for all 5 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
3	Regular Foster Care
3	Treatment Foster Care (private)
1	Relative

Placement Stability

In 3 of the 8 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 4 of the 8 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 4 cases had 1 placement change.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 3 of the 4 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 8 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 8 children/youths had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 5 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 6 of the 7 children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children/youths had substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 4 of the 8 children/youths were being met. 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

6 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child/youth refused to attend school and 1 child was under age 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

1 of the 3 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that the 1 youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

The local board agreed that all 3 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing(Transitioning Youth aged 20 – 1 case)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for the youth who was transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 8 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth with an adoption plan was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 child/youth with an adoption plan was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for the 1 child. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non relative foster parent.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement was as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was not completed and approved for the child/youth.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the child/youth.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for the child/youth.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for the child/youth. The services that were needed were medical and mental health.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the child/youth.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 5 of the 8 children/youths had visits with parents, and 1 had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; once a week for (2 cases) and quarterly for (3). The frequency of the visits with relatives was; daily for (1 case). The visits with

parents were supervised for (3 cases) by an LDSS agency representative and unsupervised for (2). The visits with parents occurred at the parent's home for (2 cases) and at an LDSS visitation center for (3). The visits with relatives were unsupervised for the (1 case) and occurred at the child's/youth's placement.

The local board found that 7 of the 8 children had siblings in care and they all had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other family related barrier.
- Home study not completed.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 8 children reviewed.

Howard County



Howard County had a total of 8 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 3 cases
- APPLA: 5 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 4 of the 8 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified concurrent permanency plans for 3 of the 8 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court in all 3 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (4)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)

All 5 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 5 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						2
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	3					2
2 to 3 years						1
3 years or more						

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 3 of the 8 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 8 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 5 of the 8 cases.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 5 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Restricted Relative Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (private)
1	Non Relative
3	None

Placement Stability

In 4 of the 8 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 3 of the 8 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 1 placement change, 1 case had 2 changes and 1 case had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 1 of the 3 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 8 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 6 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 7 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 of the 8 children/youths

had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 1 child/youth was taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 2 youths had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for both youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 3 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 2 of the 8 children/youths were being met. 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

3 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 2 youths were in college, 2 youths had graduated high school and 1 child was under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

2 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

The local board agreed that 3 of the 5 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had not been specified for the youth who was transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the youth was not being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 7 of the 8 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Not applicable, none of the 8 children/youths had a plan of adoption.

Adoptive Placement (None)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable

Adoptive Recruitment

Not applicable

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 6 of the 8 children/youths had visits with parents, and 2 had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; once a week for (2 cases) and unknown for (4). The frequency of the visits with relatives were unknown for the (2 cases). The visits with parents were supervised for (4 cases) by an LDSS agency representative and unsupervised for (2). The visits with parents occurred at an LDSS visitation center for (3 cases), at a public area for (2) and at another location for (1 case). The visits with relatives occurred at the relative's home for (1 case) and at a public area for (1 case).

The local board found that 3 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care and they all had visits with their siblings.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 8 children/youths reviewed.

Kent County



Kent County had a total of 5 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 3 of the 5 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 5 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the court in the 1 case.

Category of APPLA plan (None)

Not applicable

Permanent Connections (None)

Not applicable

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months	2					
1 to 2 years						
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more	1				2	

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 5 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 5 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 4 of the 5 cases.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 4 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Treatment Foster Care (private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center

Placement Stability

In 2 of the 5 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 3 of the 5 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 3 cases had 1 placement change.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 2 of the 3 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 5 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 5 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 of the 5 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: All 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: All 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: All 5 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 5 children/youths had substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: All 5 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 4 of the 5 children/youths were being met. 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

All 5 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

None of the 3 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth had mental health reasons and was unable to participate.

The local board agreed that 2 of the youths were not being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

The local board agreed that 2 of the 3 youths were not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living, and 1 had mental health reasons.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Not applicable.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 4 of the 5 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Not applicable, none of the 8 children/youths had a plan of adoption.

Adoptive Placement (None)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable

Adoptive Recruitment

Not applicable

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 3 of the 5 children/youths had visits with parents, and none had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; more than once a week for (2 cases) and twice a month for (1). The visits with parents were unsupervised for all (3 cases) and the visits occurred at the parent's home for all (3 cases).

The local board found that 2 of the 5 children/youths had siblings in care and they both had visits with their siblings.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Youth placed outside home jurisdiction.

- No service agreement with youth.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- No current Safe C/G.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other education barrier.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 5 children/youths reviewed.

Montgomery County



Montgomery County had a total of 42 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 26 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 5 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 5 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 27 of the 42 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 42 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (5 Cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (5)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)

All of the 5 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 5 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1			1	2	1
7 to 11 months	2		4	1		
1 to 2 years	14		1	2		2
2 to 3 years	6					1
3 years or more	3					1

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 22 of the 42 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 34 of the 42 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 15 of the 42 cases. 2 cases were post TPR children under age 14.

The local board found the service agreement was appropriate for the 15 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
15	Formal Kinship Care
3	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
6	Regular Foster Care
2	Restricted Foster Home (Relative)
4	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
5	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
4	None

Placement Stability

In 22 of the 42 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 15 of the 42 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 6 cases had 1 placement change, 6 cases had 2 changes, 2 cases had 3 changes and 1 case had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 9 of the 15 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 42 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 7 of the 42 children/youths had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 30 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 25 children/youths had received a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 22 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 13 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 17 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 15 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 22 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 22 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with a mental health issue was transitioning out of care and there was no identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 4 youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for all 4 youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 17 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 17 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 16 of the 42 children/youths had been met. 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

31 of the 42 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 3 youths were enrolled in college, 1 child/youth refused to attend school and 7 children were under age 5.

The local board agreed that all the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 14 cases)

1 of the 14 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience, and 1 youth had mental health reasons and was unable to participate.

The local board agreed that 10 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 14 cases)

The local board agreed that 7 of the 14 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had a mental health concern and was unable to attain independent living skills.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had not been specified for the youth who was transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the youth was not being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

10 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 42 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 3 children were under the age of consent and 1 child/youth's consent was unknown.

Adoptive Placement (4 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 4 children/youths with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure comprised of a married couple for 3 cases and a single female for 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was non relative foster parents for all 4 cases.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement was as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 3 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved for 1 case.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet identified needs of the children/youths in all 4 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate in all 4 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for the 4 adoption cases. The service that were needed was medical for all 4 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for all 4 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 29 of the 42 children/youths had visits with parents, and 19 had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; daily for (1 case), once a week for (12), more than once a week for (4), once a month for (7), twice a month for (3) and quarterly for (1 case). The frequency of the visits with relatives were; daily for (1 case), once a week for (5), more than once a week for (1), once a month for (6), twice a month for (2), quarterly for (1) and unknown for (3 cases). The visits with parents were supervised for (16 cases) and unsupervised for (13). An LDSS agency representative supervised for (12 cases), a biological family member for (3) and a foster parent for (1 case). The visits with parents occurred at the parent's home for (7 cases), at an LDSS visitation center for (11), at a public area for (5) and at the child's/youth's placement for (6 case). The visits with relatives were all unsupervised and they occurred at the relative's home for (14 cases), at a public area for (4) and at the child's/youth's placement for (1 case).

The local board found that 23 of the 42 children/youths had siblings in care and all had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Appeal by birth parents.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Inadequate preparation for independence.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Postponement and/or continuation of hearings.
- Other court, family and educational and agency barriers.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 42 children reviewed.

Prince George's County



Prince George's County had a total of 21 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 5 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- Non Relative Custody & Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 11 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 21 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 21 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (11 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (11)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 11 cases)

8 of the 11 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 8 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1			1		2
7 to 11 months						2
1 to 2 years	2			1	1	2
2 to 3 years	2			1	1	4
3 years or more						1

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement

meetings prior to entry for all 21 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 13 of the 21 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 2 cases. 1 case was a post TPR child under age 14.

The local board found the service agreement was appropriate for the 2 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Pre Finalized Adoptive Home
8	Treatment Foster Care (private)
3	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Relative
1	Non Relative
1	Own Dwelling
1	None

Placement Stability

In 14 of the 21 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 9 of the 21 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 5 cases had 1 placement change and 4 cases had 2 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for all 9 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 20 of the 21 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 21 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 10 children/youth had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 9 children/youth had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children/youth had received a current dental exam.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 of the 21 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 10 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 9 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 14 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 14 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and there was an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: None of youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 6 of the 21 children/youths had been met. 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

13 of the 21 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 6 youths had graduated high school, 1 child/youth refused to attend school and 1 child was under age 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 15 cases)

5 of the 15 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 1 youth was unable to participate because of mental health reasons.

The local board agreed that the 5 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 15 cases)

The local board agreed that 13 of the 15 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 7 cases)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 5 of the 7 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the 5 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 21 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth was medically fragile and unable to consent and 2 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

2 of the 3 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple in both cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youth for both cases was non relative foster parents.

Length of time in pre-adoptive placements was as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 1 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in both cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of the children/youths in both cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for both cases.

Adoptive Recruitment

The local department did not have documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 1 child/youth not placed in a pre-adoptive placement.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for both cases. The services that were needed were medical for 1 case and mental health for both cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for both cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 13 of the 21 children/youths had visits with parents, and 8 had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; daily for (1 case), once a week for (1), more than once a week for (3), once a month for (2) and twice a month for (6 cases). The frequency of the visits with relatives were; daily for (1 case), once a week for (1), more than once a week for (2), once a month for (1), twice a month for (2) and unknown for (1 case). The visits with parents were supervised for (3 cases), by an LDSS agency representative for (1), another agency representative for (1), a foster parent for (1) and unsupervised for (10 cases). The visits with parents occurred at the parent's home for (5 cases), at an LDSS visitation center for (1), at a public area for (2) and at the child's/youth's placement for (5 cases). The visits with relatives were supervised for (3 cases), by a LDSS agency representative for (1), another agency representative for (1) a foster parent for (1) and unsupervised for (5 cases). The visits with relatives occurred at the relative's home for (5 cases), at an LDSS visitation center for (1), at a public area for (1) and at the child's/youth's placement for (1 case).

The local board found that 6 of the 21 children/youths had siblings in care and all 6 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Other agency related barrier.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other physical health barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 21 children/youths reviewed.

Queen Anne's County



Queen Anne's County had a total of 3 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 2 cases
- Appla: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 2 of the 3 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 3 cases.

The local department was not implementing the concurrent plan set by the court for the 1 case.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

The 1 APPLA case had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the case.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years						1
2 to 3 years	2					
3 years or more						

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 3 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 3 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 2 of the 3 cases.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 2 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Regular Foster Care
2	Residential Group Home

Placement Stability

In 1 of the 3 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

There were no placement changes within the 12 months prior to the review.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 2 of the 3 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 3 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 3 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children/youths

- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and there was no identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of all 3 children/youths were being met.

Education

1 of the 3 children/youths reviewed was enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 youth was enrolled in college and the other youth had graduated high school.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or other educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

- Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

1 of the 3 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

The local board agreed that 2 of the 3 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had not been specified for the youth who was transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the youth was not being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in all 5 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. None of the 3 children/youths had a plan of adoption.

Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources – (None)

Not applicable

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources – (None)

Not applicable

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 2 of the 3 children/youths had visits with parents and 1 had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; once a week for (2 cases). The frequency of the visits with relatives were; once a week for (1 case). The visits with parents were supervised for (1 case) by an outside agency representative in the (1 case). The visits with parents occurred at the parent's home for (1 case) and at the child's/youth's placement for (1 case). The visits with relatives were unsupervised for (1 case) and the visits occurred at the relative's home.

The local board found that none of the 3 children/youths had siblings in care. However, 2 children/youths had visits with siblings who were not in care.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- No follow through with service agreement objectives.
- Other child/youth related barriers.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Inadequate preparation for independence.

- Other placement barrier.
- Other independence barrier.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 5 children/youths reviewed.

Washington County



Washington County had a total of 7 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 7 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 2 of the 7 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for the 2 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (3 Cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

2 of the 3 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for both cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1					1
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	1					2
2 to 3 years				2		
3 years or more						

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 7 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 6 of the 7 of the cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 3 cases. 1 case was a post TPR child under age 14.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 3 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Own Dwelling
1	Diagnostic Center

Placement Stability

In 4 of the 7 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 5 of the 7 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 5 cases had 1 placement change.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for all 5 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 7 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 7 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 6 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 of the 7 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.

- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 6 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 6 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and there and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: None of the children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 6 of the 7 children were being met.

Education

All 7 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

None of the 5 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 1 was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

The local board agreed that 4 of the 5 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for the youth who was transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning

out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 7 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Both children/youths with a plan of adoption consented.

Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Neither of the 2 children/youths with an adoption plan were placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Adoptive Recruitment (2 cases)

The local department did not have documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for both children/youths.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Not applicable

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 5 of the 7 children/youths had visits with parents and none had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; more than once a week for (1 case), once a month for (3) and twice a month for (1 case). The visits with parents were supervised for (3 cases) and unsupervised for (2). An LDSS/agency representative supervised all (3 cases). The visits with parents occurred at the parent's home for (1 case), at an LDSS/visitation center for (3) and at the child's/youth's placement for (1 case).

The local board found that 5 of the 7 children/youths had siblings in care and all 5 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Lack of Group Home placements.
- Pre-Adoptive resources not identified.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 7 children/youths reviewed.

Worcester County



Worcester County had a total of 8 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 4 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 4 of the 8 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 3 of the 8 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for the 3 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (3 Cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)
- Transition to an Adult Supportive Living Arrangement (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

All 3 of the APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for all 3 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months						1
1 to 2 years	4			1		
2 to 3 years						2
3 years or more						

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 8 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 5 of the 8 of the cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 5 cases. 1 case was a post TPR child under age 14.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 5 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
4	Regular Foster Care
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Own Dwelling

Placement Stability

In 6 of the 8 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 3 of the 8 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 1 placement change, 1 case had 2 changes and 1 case had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 2 of the 3 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 8 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 6 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 of the 8 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 6 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 3 of the 8 children/youths were being met. 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

5 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 2 youths had graduated high school, and 1 child was under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

None of the 5 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 2 of the 5 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

The local board agreed that 2 of the 5 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living, 1 youth was not receiving appropriate services and 2 youths had mental health reasons.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for the youth who was transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 7 of the 8 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth with a plan of adoption was medically fragile and unable to consent.

Adoptive Placement (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

The 1 child/youth with an adoption plan was not placed in a pre-adoptive homes.

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

The local department did not have documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the child/youth.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Not applicable

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 5 of the 8 children/youths had visits with parents, and 1 had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; once a week for (1 cases), more than once a week for (1), and twice a month for (1). The frequency of the visits with relatives were; twice a month for (1 case). The visits with parents were supervised for (4 cases) by an LDSS agency representative and unsupervised for (1 case). The visits with parents occurred at the parent's home for (1 case) and at an LDSS visitation center for (4). The visits with relatives were unsupervised for (1 case) and the visits occurred at the relative's home.

The local board found that 4 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care and all 4 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers

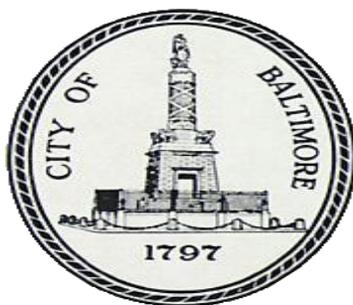
The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No service agreement with youth.
- Board does not agree with the current permanency plan.
- Pre-Adoptive resources not identified.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Inadequate preparation for independence.
- No current Safe C/G.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other placement barrier.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 7 of the 8 children/youths reviewed.

Baltimore City



Baltimore City had a total of 96 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 11 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 4 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 6 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 26 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 9 cases
- APPLA: 40 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 86 of the 96 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 7 of the 96 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plans set by the court in the 7 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (40 cases)

The cases with a plan of APPLA had the following categories of APPLA:

- Emancipation/Independence (37)
- Transition to an Adult Supportive Living Arrangement (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 40 cases)

34 of the 40 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 34 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	3	2	3	14	6	4
7 to 11 months	2		1	3		7
1 to 2 years	2	1		3		9
2 to 3 years			2	2	1	11
3 years or more	4	1		4	2	9

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 22 of the 96 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 43 of the 96 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 26 cases. 16 cases were post TPR children under age 14.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 26 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
5	Formal Kinship Care
21	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
3	Regular Foster Care
3	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care
26	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
3	Teen Mother Program
2	Therapeutic Group Home
12	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Relative
3	Non-Relative
4	Own Dwelling
1	Other
9	None

Placement Stability

In 48 of the 96 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 47 of the 96 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 26 cases had 1 placement change, 10 cases had 2 placement changes, 7 cases had 3 placement changes and 4 cases had 4 or more placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 10 of the 47 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 92 of the 96 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 26 of the 96 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 59 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 35 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 36 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 19 of the 96 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 36 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 25 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 45 children/youths had mental health issues
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 34 of the 45 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and there was an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system. 13 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and did not have an identified plan.
- Substance Abuse: 12 youths had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 12 youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 33 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 24 of the 33 children.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 20 of the 96 children/youths had been met. 8 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

44 of the 96 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 5 youths were in college, 20 youths had already graduated high school, 11 youths refused to attend school, and 16 were under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that all of the children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 53 cases)

16 of the 53 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was medically fragile, 1 youth had mental health reasons and 3 youths were in a correctional facility and unable to participate.

The local board agreed that the 16 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 53 cases)

The local board agreed that 27 of the 53 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 26 cases) (Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 15 of the 26 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the 15 youths were being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 91 of the 96 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 7 children/youths consented to adoption, 1 child/youth wanted to be adopted with conditions, 1 child/youth was medically fragile and unable to consent and 5 were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (26 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

25 of the 26 children/youths with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure comprised of a married couple for 17 cases, an unmarried couple for 1 case and a single female for 7 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was relative foster parents for 4 cases, non relative foster parents for 20 cases, and fictive kin foster parent for 1 case.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows:

- 6 case(s) from 1 to 3 months
- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 1 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 3 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 14 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in 21 of the 25 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet the identified needs of the children/youths in the 25 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for the 25 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment

The local department reported documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 1 child/youth not placed in a pre-adoptive home as well as the 4 children/youths placed with relatives for adoption. The adoptive resources include Adopt Us Kids, Digital Me, Ready & Waiting and maternal relatives.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for all 26 cases. The services that were needed were medical for all cases, mental health services for 6 cases, educational services for 9 cases and respite services for 1 case.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 26 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

The local board found that 32 of the 96 children/youths had visits with parents, and 25 had visits with relatives. The frequency of the visits with parents were; daily for (3 cases), once a week for

(7), more than once a week for (4), once a month for (2), twice a month for (10) and unknown for (6 cases). The frequency of the visits with relatives were; daily for (3 cases), once a week for (5), more than once a week for (3), once a month for (4), twice a month for (2) and unknown for (8 cases). The visits with parents were supervised for (7 cases) by an LDSS agency representative in all (7 cases). The visits with parents occurred at the parent's home for (10 cases), at an LDSS visitation center for (6), at a public area for (8), at the child's/youth's placement for (5) and at another location for (3 cases). The visits with relatives were supervised for (2 cases) by an LDSS agency representative in both cases. The visits with relatives occurred at the relative's home for (16 cases), at a public area for (5) and at the child's/youth's placement for (4 cases).

The local board found that 41 of the 96 children/youths had siblings in care and all 41 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No service agreement with child.
- Inadequate preparation for independence.
- Poor coordination between DSS & DDA/MHA.
- Other service resource barrier.
- Other administrative barrier.
- ICPC issues.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Lack of worker visits.
- Worker did not submit referral for needed resource/service.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Lack of follow-up (general).
- Lack of training of staff.
- Agency related barriers.
- Child does not consent to adoption.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Disrupted pre-adoption placement.
- Unwilling to adopt because of lack of services or financial support.
- Disrupted finalized adoption.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Youth not receiving adequate services.
- No current IEP.
- Other education barrier.

- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Other physical health barrier.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Other independence barrier.
- Other placement barrier.
- Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- No current Safe C/G.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 86 of the 96 children/youths reviewed.

Required Supporting Documentation for CRBC Reviews

The following are reminders of the materials required in accordance with the work plan agreement created between the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Social Services Administration and the Citizens Review Board for Children.

- Each (LDSS) is required to continue to bring the child's complete case records and/or records containing requested supportive documentation to all CRBC case reviews.
- Each (LDSS) should continue supplying CRBC with the most recent and current contact information for all interested parties, including professionals and family members.

Recommendations to All Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS)

- Each (LDSS) should encourage the attendance of children and youth who are 10 years of age and older to attend his/her scheduled CRBC case review.
- Each (LDSS) should encourage foster parent attendance at scheduled CRBC case reviews.
- Each (LDSS) should improve their efforts with documenting concurrent permanency plans.
- Each (LDSS) should improve their efforts with getting parents to sign service agreements for those youth with a permanency plan of reunification.
- Each (LDSS) is required to include the paternal family members as possible resources for all youth who are in out-of-home-placement care.

Independent Living

- Each (LDSS) is required to improve their efforts with preparing youth that have a plan of APPLA to meet their employment goals.

Permanent Connections

- Each (LDSS) is encouraged to improve their efforts with identifying permanent connections for those youth with a plan of APPLA.

Adoption

- Each (LDSS) should ensure that age appropriate youth with a permanency plan of adoption are linked with adoption counseling services.

3rd Quarter 2018
CRBC Metrics

Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:	606
Total # of Children - Closed, Non Submission & Rescheduled:	253
Total # of Children - Eligible for Review:	353
Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:	300
Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board:	53
Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:	85%
Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:	15%
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent	300
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent on Time	300
Recommendation Reports - Percent Sent on Time	100%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received – DSS Response	240
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received % - DSS Response	80%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received on Time - DSS Response	87
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received on Time % - DSS Response	36%
Number of Boards Held	46
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Agreement	237
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Agreement	99%
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Disagreement	3
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Disagreement	1%
Recommendation Reports - # Blank/Unanswered	0
Recommendation Reports - Percent # Blank/Unanswered	0%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	34%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – Adoption Children Reviewed:	1%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – C & G Children Reviewed:	4%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	20%
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	7%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	34%

The State Board

Doretha "Dee" Henry

Circuit 1: Representing Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties

Vacant

Circuit 2: Representing Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne, and Talbot Counties

Delores Alexander (Vice Chairperson)

Circuit 3: Representing Baltimore and Harford Counties

Nettie Anderson-Burrs (Chairperson)

Circuit 4: Representing Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties

Denise Messineo

Circuit 5: Representing Anne Arundel, Carroll, and Howard Counties

Vacant

Circuit 6: Representing Frederick and Montgomery Counties

DaVina Richardson

Circuit 7: Representing Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties

Beatrice Lee

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Rita Jones

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Sarah Walker

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

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